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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Flax Production and Processing

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Since 1949, all Czechoslovak farmers working terrain higher than about 450 m. altitude above sea level have been ordered to cultivate flax on about five per cent of their land available for cultivation. This order was approximately the same as during the German occupation. From 1945 until the end of 1948 flax cultivation decreased in comparison with the production during World War II. The increase in flax cultivation since 1949 was in response to the decrease of cotton imports into the country.
2. [REDACTED] drawing /Enclosure A, Part b7 shows a flax pulling-out machine which I saw in operation on a state-owned farm called Velky Dvur (Large Farm), in Sezimovo Usti /4923N-1442E/, in Autumn 1951. This machine was apparently new, because I had neither seen it nor heard of it before. The machine was labeled Agrostroj, but there was no indication which Agrostroj plant manufactured it. I think that it was probably manufactured in the Agrostroj Prostejov National Enterprise in Prostejov /4928N-1707E/, as the largest factory in Czechoslovakia for production of agricultural machinery and a research institute for agricultural machinery were located in this town. I learned

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all I know about this factory and research institute

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3. Another drawing /Enclosure A, Part a/ shows the scutching machine used in Czechoslovakia. This machine was produced in the machinery plant in Tannwald /5044N-1518E/. (I do not remember the exact name of this plant.) This machinery plant was an old factory originally set up as a maintenance plant for the flax and cotton factories in the Tannwald region. The plant was designated as the main plant for production of flax machinery in Czechoslovakia at one of several textile machinery meetings held in 1948 in Prague, Brno, and Gottwaldov. (Fnu) ROPEK, former chief designer for Bata (Svit) sewing machines, was designated general manager of this factory sometime in 1949.
4. A third drawing /Enclosure A, Part c/ shows a hackling machine of German make used in Czechoslovakia. I doubt if this type of machine was produced in Czechoslovakia.
5. A new factory for flax retting and decortivating was set in operation in Veseli nad Luznici /4911N-1442E/ some time in 1952. It was a large factory with a tall smokestack, located east of the Luznici River and east of the railroad from Prague to Ceske Budejovice. (I do not remember the exact location of this factory.) In 1951 and 1952 engineers from the Svit Works in Gottwaldov came to this factory to set the plant's drying house into operation. As this plant was new and modern and used the facilities of a drying house for the retting process, I would conclude that there was no factory for mechanical decortivating of flax (decortivating with the elimination of the retting process) in Czechoslovakia. The Decorta Company, Frankfurt a/Main, is presently attempting (in 1953) to discover a flax mechanical decortivating process. I believe that this is most likely the first attempt in Europe to find such a process.

ENCLOSURE A:

- Sketch a. Scutching Machine
- Sketch b. Flax Pulling-out Machine
- Sketch c. Hackling Machine

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